

----- Forwarded Message

From: Carolyn Bonner <[cbonner@ogpm.net](mailto:cbonner@ogpm.net)>

Date: Fri, 17 Jun 2011 21:22:34 -0400

To: Carolyn Bonner <[cbonner@ogpm.net](mailto:cbonner@ogpm.net)>

Conversation: Pervez Musharraf Speaks to CNN - "Pakistan: A reality check amid the terror and chaos"

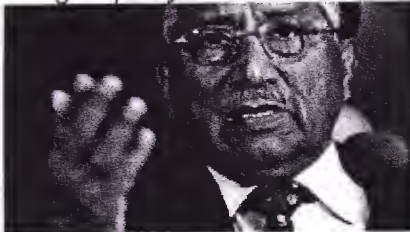
Subject: Pervez Musharraf Speaks to CNN - "Pakistan: A reality check amid the terror and chaos"

2011 SEP 27 PM 4:26

## **Pakistan: A reality check amid the terror and chaos**

By **Pervez Musharraf**, Special to CNN  
June 9, 2011 6:17 a.m. EDT

**Editor's note:** Former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf came to power in a bloodless military coup in 1999 when he was chief of Pakistan's army. He held power until the 2008 elections after which he resigned; since then he has lived in self-imposed exile in London. In late 2010 he launched the All Pakistan Muslim League party with a view to running for office in 2013.



**(CNN)** -- Today Pakistan finds itself in the eye of the terrorism storm. An environment of controversies, contradictions, distortions and mutual suspicions prevails all around, polluting and weakening the war on terror. The situation demands a clearer understanding of ground realities in south Asia, bridging the acute trust deficit and developing a unity of thought and action among all coalition players. Blame games, rigidity, arrogance and insensitivity to others' interests will always remain counterproductive.

I would like to start by analyzing the existing environment in its historical perspective. How did religious militancy get introduced into Pakistan? There is no doubt that Pakistan is a victim of terrorism and is certainly not the perpetrator.

In 1979, the United States, in its own interest of containing Soviet expansion, and Pakistan, in its own national interest of preserving its integrity against the Soviet design of reaching the warm waters of the Indian Ocean through Pakistan, initiated a jihad (holy war in defense of Islam) in Afghanistan. We inducted 25,000 to 30,000 Mujahedeen (holy warriors) from all over the Muslim world into Afghanistan and also pumped in Taliban from the tribal agencies of Pakistan after arming and training them.

Musharraf launches new political party.

In effect, therefore, for 10 long years from 1979 to 1989, we gave birth to religious militancy under the call for jihad. The freedom struggle in Indian-held Kashmir started in 1989 and continues till now. It has tremendous public sympathy in Pakistan and has given birth to several Mujahedeen groups. This is another big cause of religious militancy in Pakistan.

**Then there was the** most disastrous period of 1989-2001 for Afghanistan when the United States summarily quit the area, resulting in the coalescing of the Mujahedeen into al Qaeda and the rise of the Taliban. During this period, four million Afghan refugees came into Pakistan.

Finally, to crown it all, there was 9/11, initiating the U.S. military offensive in Afghanistan and Pakistan's membership of the coalition. In its aftermath, all hell broke loose in Pakistan, with religious militancy from the east and the west. Pakistan's national and social fabric was torn asunder.

Why is there so much antipathy in Pakistan's public mind against the United States? This is despite the fact that Pakistan was very consciously in strategic alliance with the United States and the West for 42 years since our independence in 1947 and together fought a jihad in Afghanistan for 10 years from 1979 to 1989. Our relationship, and even public perceptions of each other, were pretty normal and friendly until 1989.

The abandonment of Pakistan after 1989, with a strategic shift of U.S. policy towards India and military sanctions against Pakistan, cost U.S.-Pakistan relations very dearly. In Pakistan's public mind, the United States "used" Pakistan and then abandoned it: this was taken as a betrayal. The U.S. nuclear policy of appeasement and strategic co-operation with India against Pakistan is taken by the man in the street in Pakistan as very partisan and an act of animosity against our national interest. The continuing U.S. military presence and operations in Afghanistan, the indiscriminate drone attacks with increasing collateral damage in the tribal agencies of Pakistan and, finally, the violation of Pakistani sovereignty in the cross-border strike against Osama bin Laden are all now seen most negatively by the people of Pakistan.

To further complicate and indeed weaken our joint war against terror, there is an acute deficit of trust and confidence between the United States and Pakistan at all levels of government, the military and intelligence. This has increased manifold over the last year. It started somewhat with myself in 2004-2005. Our policy in Pakistan's tribal agencies was to wean away Pakthuns from the Taliban. I coined a phrase back in 2002-2003 that all Taliban are Pakthun, but all Pakthun are not Taliban. The methodology adopted was through the convening of Jirgas (gatherings of notables and elders), which are very much a tribal custom. This was seen in certain quarters in the United States and also the media as "double dealing." There were accusations against me that I was "dealing" with the Taliban.

My many exhortations that this was a baseless accusation -- and the logic of how I could be dealing with people who were trying to assassinate me -- fell on deaf ears. Problems also arose whenever the United States showed tendencies towards micro management. My argument always was to co-operate and believe in strategic coordination to fight al-Qaeda and the Taliban and to leave the tactics and micro management to us. The bone of contention now seems to be the general feeling in U.S. circles that Pakistan refused to take military action in North Waziristan against the Siraj Haqqani group of Taliban. American accusations about Pakistan's military and intelligence services being complicit with the Taliban basically result from this.

I am not privy to Pakistan's strategy of not operating against the Haqqani, at least for the time being. However, I am very sure that they cannot be supporting them. The malicious role of India and the Afghan government itself in maligning Pakistan's military and intelligence must not be overlooked. We know what Indian consulates in Kandahar and Jalalabad especially are doing. We also know that Afghan intelligence, military and foreign service personnel go for training in India. Not a single one comes to Pakistan, despite Pakistan's longstanding offer of free training since my time in office.

The locating and killing of Osama bin Laden in the most unlikely hideout of Abbottabad has shocked the world -- most of all Pakistan. It indeed strengthens the argument about Pakistan's complicity with the Taliban. The question being debated is whether this is complicity or incompetence. I would certainly go for the latter: incompetence and callousness of the highest degree.

The simple logic that I would apply, whether anyone believes it or not, is that if bin Laden was hiding in Abbottabad for five years (which my sense of logic does not readily accept), then any complicity involves me also. I knew nothing about it, and I cannot imagine in my wildest dreams that the intelligence agencies were hiding it from me. Therefore, there was no complicity at the top.

Could rogue elements within the intelligence services have been harboring him? Not possible. The intelligence detachment personnel in the area, or at least the commander, must have changed at least three times in this period. Could all of them have been aiding and abetting him? No. Does not knowing bin Laden's whereabouts, for however long, stand the test of reason? I think it does. After all the thousands of people living around Osama's house also did not know. Human intelligence, after all, gathers information from people.

Let me finally come to the way ahead. Does the present environment bode well for the global war on terror? Certainly not. Therefore, the earlier we mend fences, the better for Pakistan, the United States, the south Asia region and indeed the whole world.

The first and most urgent need of the hour is to restore trust. We must speak the truth with each other very openly and frankly. Pakistan needs to explain clearly why it is not acting against the Haqqani group or when it will operate in North Waziristan. The intelligence agencies of Pakistan should be purged of any elements who may not be committed to the official line of fighting al Qaeda and the Taliban.

The United States, on the other hand, must trust that Pakistan is committed to fighting terrorism and that it is doing this in its own interest. Attacking targets in tribal agencies must be left to Pakistani forces, even if it means giving drones to Pakistan. Our sovereignty must be respected. Pakistan's army looks overstretched and maybe somewhat fatigued. There is a need to raise about 20 more wings of Frontier Corps and equip them with more tanks and medium guns. Abandoning the area by U.S. and other Coalition forces without creating the appropriate political environment and the military capability in the Afghan forces would be most inadvisable.

The ulterior Indian motive of creating an anti-Pakistan Afghanistan has to stop. Afghan President Hamid Karzai must also understand this and stop stabbing Pakistan in the back. Only the United States can ensure such an essential change. The Kashmir dispute needs an urgent, amicable settlement. That is the core towards stopping the religious militancy of the Kashmir-orientated Mujahedeen.

In the final analysis Pakistan also has to look inwards to resolve its sociopolitical conflict. We, as a nation, have to boldly demonstrate our resolve towards moderation and rejection of extremism from within our society. We have to follow, with courage, the five-point agenda that I created to check extremism within:

1. Stop misuse of madrassas and mosques from preaching militancy of any form.
2. Stop printing/publishing and selling/distributing any material spreading violence and militancy.
3. Ban militant religious organizations and deny their reemergence under different names.
4. Keep the religious syllabus and curriculum in schools under constant review to prevent any teaching of controversial issues, which could lead to religious rigidity, extremism and intolerance.
5. Implement a madrasa strategy to mainstream Taliban into the social fabric of the nation.

All this is easier said than done. It needs a government that comprehends the magnitude of the task, has the following of the people and the determination to change. In the present political scenario none of the political parties or their leaders has the acumen to achieve such lofty ideals. We face an acute leadership vacuum. This has to be filled. We have to break the political status quo. We have to produce a political alternative to be seen domestically and



internationally as viable and take it to victory through democratic means.

Time is of essence for Pakistan. Too much water has flown under the bridge. The next elections will be the mother of all elections.

*The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of Pervez Musharraf.*

Carolyn Bonner  
Senior Special Assistant (Liaison)  
Office of General Pervez Musharraf  
Former President of Pakistan  
1717 Arch Street  
Suite 3820  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Cell: 610-636-0184  
Fax: 215-825-8928  
[cbonner@ogpm.net](mailto:cbonner@ogpm.net)

----- *End of Forwarded Message*

Name  
 Habibia Javard  
 Faisal Siddiqui  
 Mike Darner  
 Hera A. Abbasi  
 Reema Dodi  
 Arif Haque  
 Sabhat Qamar  
 Erum Ibrahim  
 Judes Debaere  
 Sadaf J. Khan  
 Drew Simon  
 Nida Shakir  
 Asfandiyar Khan  
 Michael Brownlie  
 Dan Chaput  
 Dalila Jadalilah  
 Khalil Munir  
 Lina Choudhry  
 Zainab Chaudhary  
 Jorie Sapir  
 Maria Maher-Haug  
 Naz Durakoglu  
 Matthew Kozey  
 Assad Akhter  
 Rosalyn Kumar  
 Vrunda Rathod  
 Julie Badeaux  
 Rina Shah  
 Dino Teppara  
 Devyn Gould  
 Isidro Mariscal  
 Sen. Richard J. Durbin  
 Sen. Richard J. Durbin  
 Rep. Albio Sires  
 Sen. Richard J. Durbin  
 Sen. Richard J. Durbin  
 Rep. Niki Tsongas  
 Rep. Niki Tsongas  
 Rep. Niki Tsongas  
 Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich  
 Rep. Ciro Rodriguez  
 Rep. Bill McCollum  
 Rep. Rush Holt  
 House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade  
 Rep. Albio Sires  
 Rep. Michael E. McMahon  
 House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade  
 Rep. Bill Pascrell  
 Rep. Jared Polis  
 Rep. Diane E. Watson  
 Rep. Diane E. Watson  
 Rep. Scott Garrett  
 Former Hill Staffer  
 Rep. Brad Sherman  
 House Foreign Affairs Committee, Middle East and South Asia  
 Subcommittee  
 Rep. Paul Hodes  
 Rep. Paul Hodes  
 Rep. Paul Hodes  
 Rep. Anthony Weiner  
 Rep. André Carson  
 Rep. Michael Turner  
 Sen. Mitch McConnell  
 House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade  
 Rep. Bruce Braley  
 Rep. Jim Costa  
 Rep. Joe Donnelly  
 Sen. Mitch McConnell  
 Rep. Bill Delahunt  
 Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere  
 Rep. Donald M. Payne  
 Rep. Dave Loebsack  
 House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
 House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
 Rep. Keith Ellison  
 2011  
 Josh Salzman  
 Colleen Gallagher  
 Caitlin Ganley  
 Meredith Beutner  
 Amy Barrera  
 Sen. Richard J. Durbin  
 Sen. Richard J. Durbin  
 Rep. Albio Sires  
 Sen. Richard J. Durbin  
 Sen. Richard J. Durbin  
 Rep. Niki Tsongas  
 Rep. Niki Tsongas  
 Rep. Niki Tsongas  
 Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich  
 Rep. Ciro Rodriguez  
 Rep. Bill McCollum  
 Rep. Rush Holt  
 House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade  
 Rep. Albio Sires  
 Rep. Michael E. McMahon  
 House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade  
 Rep. Bill Pascrell  
 Rep. Jared Polis  
 Rep. Diane E. Watson  
 Rep. Diane E. Watson  
 Rep. Scott Garrett  
 Former Hill Staffer  
 Rep. Brad Sherman  
 House Foreign Affairs Committee, Middle East and South Asia  
 Subcommittee  
 Rep. Paul Hodes  
 Rep. Paul Hodes  
 Rep. Paul Hodes  
 Rep. Anthony Weiner  
 Rep. André Carson  
 Rep. Michael Turner  
 Sen. Mitch McConnell  
 House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade  
 Rep. Bruce Braley  
 Rep. Jim Costa  
 Rep. Joe Donnelly  
 Sen. Mitch McConnell  
 Rep. Bill Delahunt  
 Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere  
 Rep. Donald M. Payne  
 Rep. Dave Loebsack  
 House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
 House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
 Rep. Keith Ellison  
 Congressman Pete Sessions  
 Congressman Meehan  
 Congressman Meehan  
 Congressman Meehan  
 Congresswoman Cantor

Habibia\_Javard@saa.senate.gov  
 Faisal.Siddiqui@mail.house.gov  
 Michael.Darner@mail.house.gov  
 Hera\_Abbasi@mail.house.gov  
 Reema.Dodi@mail.house.gov  
 Arif.Haque@mail.house.gov  
 Sabhat.Qamar@mail.house.gov  
 erumibrahim@gmail.com  
 Judes\_Debaere@durbin.senate.gov  
 Sadaf\_Khan@mail.house.gov  
 Drew\_Simon@durbin.senate.gov  
 Nida\_Shakir@durbin.senate.gov  
 Asfandiyar\_Khan@mail.house.gov  
 michael.brownlie@mail.house.gov  
 daniel.chaput@mail.house.gov  
 Dalila.Jadalilah@mail.house.gov  
 Khalil.Munir@mail.house.gov  
 Lina.Choudhry@mail.house.gov  
 Zainab.Chaudhary@mail.house.gov  
 Jorie.Sapir@mail.house.gov  
 Maria.Maher-Haug@mail.house.gov  
 Naz.Durakoglu@mail.house.gov  
 Matthew.Kozey@mail.house.gov  
 Assad.Akhter@mail.house.gov  
 Rosalyn.Kumar@mail.house.gov  
 Vrunda.Rathod@mail.house.gov  
 Julie.Badeaux@mail.house.gov  
 rshah38@gmail.com  
 skatortrey@hotmail.com  
 Devyn.Gould@mail.house.gov  
 Isidro.Mariscal@mail.house.gov  
 Jessica.Lapern@mail.house.gov  
 Lauren.Oppeneimer@mail.house.gov  
 Sarah.Levin@mail.house.gov  
 Alexis.Miller@mail.house.gov  
 Yvonne.Kulma@gmail.com  
 monika.kulma@mail.house.gov  
 Nida.Zaman@mail.house.gov  
 micha.edmond@hotmail.com  
 Moon\_Sulfab@mcconnell.senate.gov  
 Fozia.Kaplan@mail.house.gov  
 Farza.Khan@mail.house.gov  
 Imran.Awan@mail.house.gov  
 Omar.Awan@mail.house.gov  
 Allison\_Bird@mcconnell.senate.gov  
 Dean.Dastvar@mail.house.gov  
 Nadreen\_Zafar@cc.senate.gov  
 Niki.Shah@mail.house.gov  
 Brian.Forn@mail.house.gov  
 Judith.Davila@mail.house.gov  
 Linda.Mannus@mail.house.gov  
 Sabrina.Siddiqui@mail.house.gov  
 Ashley.Mahmoudan@mail.house.gov  
 Marissa.Doran@mail.house.gov  
 Wabara.Jayradham@mail.house.gov  
 shmuck@gmail.com  
 Josh.Salzman@mail.house.gov  
 colleen.gallagher@mail.house.gov  
 cait.ganley@gmail.com  
 Meredith@meethanforcongress.com  
 Amy.Barrera@mail.house.gov

2011 SEP 27 PM 4:27